



MISUNDERSTANDING THE SPIRIT

Week One: Spirit

TODAY'S VERSES:

Genesis 1:1-2
John 4:23
Job 12:10
Isaiah 42:5
Ephesians 6:12
Luke 4:1
Luke 11:13
John 3:34
John 20:22

UPCOMING:

Youversion Thanksgiving Reading Plan

Join us for a 12 day devotional that will take us right up to Thanksgiving. Paul David Tripp guides us in short, 5 minute devotionals that keep our heart's focused on God's Mercy in this busy time of year. [Click here.](#)

Delta Christmas Drive

We are providing gift baskets filled with the most popular items: blankets, towels, and toiletries. Our goal is to provide 100 gift baskets! You can help by putting a gift basket together and dropping it off at the church by Sunday, December 6th. Email justine.cassarone@ourelement.org for more info.

Find all links at:

<https://linktr.ee/ourelement>

DISCUSSION NOTES & QUESTIONS:

The Holy Spirit is often misunderstood in Christianity today. Many people in Christianity take one of three stances toward the Holy Spirit. Either He is overlooked, misunderstood, or simply ignored.

In your understanding, who or what is the Holy Spirit?

Where do you think you formulated the ideas you have of the Holy Spirit?

We tend to like the idea of the Trinity: we like God the Father; full of majesty, holiness, righteousness, and truth. We like God the Son, Jesus; full of grace, compassion, and love. But what about the Holy Spirit? Many conservative Christians today act like He's the 3rd wheel to a perfectly good party we had going without Him. Many have portrayed the Spirit poorly in both conservative and charismatic circles.

What is the strangest thing you have ever heard, or been taught, about God's Spirit?

What do you hope to learn and grow during this series?

Today we are taking a 10,000 foot view of the term Spirit, before diving into the details in the coming weeks. It is important to have a foundation for how the word "spirit" would have been understood to writers who actually spoke of Him. If people ever try to explain the word "spirit" without Christian words, it can get very awkward.

What is a spirit? How would you explain "spirit" to others?

Do you know people who claim to be "spiritual?" What do they mean by that?

Have you seen hyper spiritualism lead to less clarity?

In almost every language, the word for spirit can be traced to the word for "breath." In most cultures the word for spirit and breath are the same word.

Read Job 12:10 and Isaiah 42:5.

In Hebrew the words for spirit are:

- **Nepes:** To breathe (also translated as soul).
- **Ruah:** Breath (sometimes translated as wind).

In the Greek New Testament the words for spirit are:

- **Psyche:** This word translates the Hebrew word Nepes (This is the word we would translate as SOUL).
- **Pneuma:** It means "breath" or "wind."

What is the purpose of God giving us a spirit?

How can we glorify God and be drawn into deeper relationship with Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit by having a spirit?

In John 20:22 Jesus says to be filled with the Spirit, meaning what He experienced He is now giving to us.

What is the difference between our spirit and God's Spirit?

What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

How have you walked with, and surrendered your will to, God's Spirit?

